



First District Association of Local Governments

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Serving counties and communities for over 45 years

MEMO TO: First District County Commissions, City Councils, Town Boards

FROM: Todd A. Kays, Executive Director

DATE: December 1, 2016

RE: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The First District Association of Local Governments' mission, as adopted by its Governing Body, is to be an active voluntary council of local governments and community leaders working together to enhance the quality of life for the people in the First District region. One of the guiding principles in support of this mission statement is the promotion of community and economic development activities. Community and economic development is vital to the image and actual quality of life of our region. By working with the city and county governments in our region, as well as the local development corporations, and others, First District continues to seek development of new and expanded community and economic development opportunities.

The First District Association of Local Governments (First District) is currently in the process of updating its five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a plan which is designed to bring together the public and private sectors within the First District in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen our regional economies. The CEDS will analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The last comprehensive update to the CEDS was completed in 2012 with annual reviews conducted by the First District Governing Body. I anticipate the completion and distribution of the CEDS update to occur in March 2017.

An integral component of the development of the CEDS is the regional development survey. I encourage all to respond to the survey as this will greatly assist First District Staff and the CEDS Committee in establishing background information and benchmarks for the CEDS update.

Regarding the survey, hopefully I have provided enough surveys for each elected board member and finance officer/auditor/administrator. It should only take 10 to 15 minutes to complete the survey. In responding to the survey each community/county may:

1. Combine all of the survey responses and send a single survey representing the elected board/finance officer/auditor/administrator responses; or
2. Select one individual to submit a response on behalf of the board/finance officer/auditor/administrator; or
3. Collect all responses from the elected board/finance officer/auditor/administrator responses and submit them.

Enclosed you will find a self addressed stamped envelope to return completed surveys. I would appreciate your response by **January 6, 2017**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance in the endeavor.

2016 Community and Regional Economic Development Survey

This questionnaire is part of an effort to identify the community/economic development needs of northeastern South Dakota (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Moody and Roberts Counties). The survey is part of the First District Association of Local Governments' (First District) update to its 2012-2016 Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Information gathered from the survey will assist the First District Governing Body develop goals, strategies and a work plan to address the region's community and economic development needs and for the provision of quality services to the members of the First District.

Please answer each question based upon your personal perspective. The first section pertains to information about the survey respondent. The second part deals with issues/needs of your community or county. The final set of questions pertain to local community and economic development issues. Your cooperation will help us do a better job of assisting our members in making the region a better place to live and work. In the event you need additional survey forms please contact Suzie at the First District (605-882-5115 or toll free at 800-981-9092).

Please return completed surveys in the enclosed envelope by January 6, 2017 to:

First District Association of Local Governments
POB 124
Watertown, SD 57201

Or fax completed surveys to 605-882-5049

Or e-mail surveys to suzie@1stdistrict.org

Part 1: About You

1. Please note the sector you are representing in your answers (Please mark only one blank):

<input type="checkbox"/> County Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> City/County Staff Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/> City Council/Town Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Elected Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Business	

2. Which community/county do you live in? _____

3. How many years have you lived in your community/county? _____

4. What is your age?

☐ Under 18
☐ 19 to 29
☐ 30 to 39
☐ 40 to 49
☐ 50 to 64
☐ Over 65

Part 2: Your Community/County

1. How would you complete the following statements?

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to live.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to visit.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to start a business.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) Consider relocating to another location other than my community/county.

2. When it comes to the availability and quality of infrastructure and community services, how would you rate the following?

	Meets Our Needs	Improvements Are Necessary	Serious Problems Exist	Not Applicable
Water System				
Sanitary Sewer System				
Road/Street Condition				
Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure				
Public Transit				
Freight Transportation (Rail)				
Passenger Air Service				
Electrical Service				
Natural Gas/Propane Service				
Cable Service				
Broadband Service				
Cell Phone Service				
Outdoor Park/Recreation Facilities				
Indoor Recreation Facilities				
Community Center/Meeting Facilities				
Senior Centers				
Law Enforcement Facilities Or Equipment				
Fire Protection Facilities/Equipment				
Health Care Facilities/Accessibility				
County/Community Web Page				

6. Please list three specific community/economic development projects or opportunities that should be addressed over the next five years.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

7. Over the next 12 to 36 months, will you need assistance from the First District in any of the following technical services?

	Yes	No	Maybe
Annexation Studies			
Business Consulting			
Capital Improvement Planning			
Census/Demographic Information			
Comprehensive Land Use Plan Development			
Disaster Mitigation/Emergency Planning			
Environmental Reviews/Assessments			
Geographic Information System Assistance (Map Creation, Webhosting, Site Analysis, Rural Addressing, Etc)			
Grant Administration			
Grant Writing			
Grants.Gov Registration			
Housing Needs Analysis			
Low Interest Loans For Business Creation/Expansion			
Nuisance Ordinance Development			
Personnel Policy/Human Resource Assistance			
Recreational Facility Planning			
SDGOED Certified Ready Site Analysis			
Strategic Planning			
Subdivision/Development Site Review			
Survey And Survey Analysis			
Tax Increment Financing			
Utility Rate Analysis			
Zoning Administration Assistance			
Zoning Ordinance Development			
Other?			
Other?			
Other?			
Other?			

3. How do the following economic factors compare to five years ago?

	Worse	Same	Better
My employer's economic circumstances			
My household's economic circumstances			
My business' economic circumstances			
My community/county's economic circumstances			

4. Five years from now, do you believe your economy will decline, stay the same or improve?

___ Improve

___ Stay the Same

___ Decline

5. In no particular order, which of the following do you view as the top five economic/community development priorities for your community/county over the next three to five years? (Please mark five)

___ Access to technical assistance and planning for community/economic development

___ Attracting new companies and/or workers

___ Attracting/retaining youth and young families

___ Developing land and/or buildings for industrial and business parks

___ Developing manufacturing businesses

___ Developing retail/service businesses

___ Developing/promoting Tourism

___ Diversifying the economy

___ Enhancing environmental protection

___ Expanding opportunities for value-added agricultural development

___ Forming regional partnerships for economic development purposes

___ Growing existing local companies

___ Helping entrepreneurs start new companies

___ Improving access to capital for businesses

___ Improving access and availability of affordable housing

___ Improving access to quality healthcare

___ Improving education systems

___ Improving government cooperation

___ Improving workforce skills (Work force education and training capabilities)

___ Improving public infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.)

___ Improving telecommunications (Broadband, cell phone, etc.)

___ Investing in renewable energy projects

___ Marketing & promotion of the community/region

___ Quality of life enhancements

___ Other _____